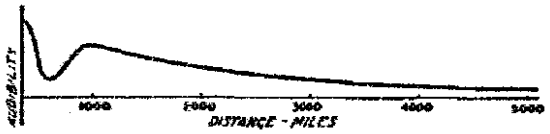
## Local Audibility

Oberlin College,
Oberlin, Ohio.

Editor, *QST*:

I wonder how many of the gang have experienced the same effects as we have at 8ZE in regard to the strength of local and DX stations on the 75-85 meter band. First, from the transmitting side, 8ZE is reported by many of the West Coast stations to have a terriffic wallop, but at the same time great difficulty is experienced in QSO with 8RYY 20 miles south of Oberlin. One night while working 6CNL, who happened to be on the same wave as we were, 8RY reported that the signals from the coast were more QSA than those from 8ZE.

The same thing is true here on the receiving end. 8CYI, 8GZ, 8PL, 8BAU and a host of others—many of the most consistent on DX transmitting—are not near-




ly as loud as the West Coast stations they are working. The loudest signals received at any time are those from 500 to 1,000 miles distant.

As nearly as I can see it, there must be an audibility curve similar to the one shown with a minimum point of audibility corresponding to the local stations and a maximum following. Has anyone any dope on this?

*E. W. Thatcher, 8ZE*

## Re One of Our Directors

Crowley, Louisiana

Editor, *QST*:

I just want to add a word of praise to a certain director of the A.R.R.L. who lives down in Chattanooga. During the first part of this year I got in communication with Mr. Benj. F. Painter by mail, as I wanted to become an amateur and didn't exactly know enough about this game to attain that grade. Mr. Painter came through to my rescue and with his aid I have managed to come to the point where all that is necessary is the application to the inspector. Mr. Painter has sure been a helpful friend and his patience can't be written about—it's there, because I have asked him more foolish questions and he has explained everything that I have ever asked for.

He is just a *real* ham, that's all. 73.

*H. T. Duson*

## Arcless Keying

307 Cabot Street,
Newtonville, Mass.

Editor, *QST*:

Probably a large per cent of us place our keys in the negative high-voltage lead, and are troubled with arcing across the contacts of the key. I tried a condenser across there but instead of an arc the current gave vent to its feelings by a nice fat spark. I have always understood that if the key is placed in the grid circuit the plate current will heat the tube up and keep it that way, but when I changed to keying in the grid circuit I happened to leave a small fixed condenser of .001 μfd capacity across the key. I was surprised to notice that the plate current was practically zero when the key was up.

There is absolutely *no* sparking at the key, and practically all of the advantages of keying in the plate circuit are at the same time retained.

*Henry S. Keen, 1AEL*

## A Radio Museum

805-63rd Ave.,
West Allis, Wisc.

Editor, *QST*:

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club has started a collection of modern, obsolete and unique radio parts and equipment which is being assembled at the Milwaukee Public Museum where it will be permanently exhibited. This idea has met with the hearty co-operation of everybody and with the help of the "gang" we hope to have an exhibit which will really be an asset to the radio game.

We are asking you for any material whatsoever which would be of interest or value in such a collection. We all have old time "doohickies" and "whatnots" that the club would most certainly appreciate having. Due credit is given to contributors by placing a card on each exhibit.

*—Sam Snead*

## Postage Rates on Cards

282 Union Ave.,
Williamsport, Pa.

Editor, *QST*:

Ever since the new regulations regarding increase in postage on different forms of mail went into effect I have noticed all my cards (QSL'S) bearing two cents. This is either misunderstanding or ignorance on the part of the "gang." The new regulations require two cents in postage on all post cards which are not government cards. On the government cards the one cent stamp which is printed on the card is sufficient postage. If the gang will have their QSL cards printed on government cards they will save one cent postage.

*C. Raymond Bell, 8BFE*